

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIMA 02914 070002Z
ACTION ARA-14

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9452
INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PBOR PE CI EC BO
SUBJ: PERU'S STANCE VIS-A-VIS RUPTURED BOLIVIA-CHILE RELATIONS;
STRESS ON COOPERATION WITH ECUADOR

REF: LIMA 2666

SUMMARY: THE GOP-CONTROLLED PRESS HAS EMPHASIZED PERU'S
INTEREST IN BUT "TOTAL IMPARTIALITY" TOWARD BOLIVIA'S
RECENT BREAK OF DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH CHILE. RECENT OFFICIAL
STATEMENTS HAVE STRESSED PERU'S PACIFIST, INTEGRATIONIST
STANCE REGARDING THE BOLIVIA CORRIDOR ISSUE AS WELL AS
RELATIONS WITH ECUADOR. END SUMMARY.

1. "EL COMERCIO" APR 4 COMMENTS EDITORIALY ON AN APR 3
EDITORIAL IN SANTIAGO'S "EL MERCURIO," WHICH IN TURN NOTED
AIRPORT REMARKS BY PERUVIAN FONMIN DE LA PUENTE IN CONNECTION
WITH THE RECENT VISIT TO LIMA OF HIS ARGENTINE COUNTERPART
(REFTEL). UNDER THE TITLE "WHAT IS EL MERCURIO LOOKING FOR?"
"EL COMERCIO" TAKES UMBRAGE AT THE CHILEAN PAPER'S REFERENCE
TO THE GOP'S SHARED-SOVEREIGNTY COUNTERPROPOSAL TO THE
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TENTATIVE BOLIVIA-CHILE CORRIDOR AGREEMENT. COUNTERING
"EL MERCURIO'S" AFFIRMATION THAT THE SHARED SOVEREIGNTY
PROPOSAL "IN ESSENCE DENIED TO BOLIVIA THE EXERCISE OF
SOVEREIGNTY IN THE SECTION OF THE CORRIDOR NEXT TO THE
OCEAN," THE LIMA PAPER CHARACTERIZES THE GOP PLAN AS "A
SERIOUS PROPOSAL INSPIRED IN THE PRINCIPLE OF PEACE,
DEVELOPMENT AND INTEGRATION THAT CHARACTERIZES OUR COUNTRY'S

FOREIGN POLICY." "EL COMERCIO" REMINDS ITS COLLEAGUE THAT PRESIDENT BANZER AND A LARGE SEGMENT OF THE BOLIVIAN POPULATION OPPOSED THE PRINCIPLE OF TERRITORIAL COMPENSATION SUGGESTED BY CHILE AND REFUTES ITS CHARGE THAT PERU IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BREAKDOWN OF CORRIDOR NEGOTIATIONS AND SUBSEQUENT SEVERING OF RELATIONS. FINALLY, THE EDITORIAL CHARACTERIZES A LETTER BY BOLIVIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ADRIAZOLA TO DE LA PUENTE (BELOW) AS AN "ELOQUENT AND DEFINITIVE" STATEMENT OF THE CAUSES OF THE RUPTURE IN DIPLOMATIC TIES.

2. THE LETTER CITED BY "EL COMERCIO" WAS PRINTED IN ALL OF LIMA'S MAJOR DAILIES APR 4. FONMIN ADRIAZOLA REFERS TO CHILE'S CONSULTATION WITH THE GOP WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE PROTOCOL TO THE 1929 TREATY, AND PERU'S "PROPOSITION OF NOVEMBER 1976" (THE SHARED SOVEREIGNTY PROPOSAL). HE THEN ASSERTS THAT SANTIAGO "ACCEPTED THE SITUATION CREATED (BY THE GOP'S DISGUISED NEGATIVE) AND DID NOT UNDERTAKE, AS IT WAS INCUMBENT ON IT AND AS BOLIVIA EXPECTED, SUBSEQUENT INITIATIVES DESTINED TO ACHIEVE PREVIOUS AGREEMENT (BY PERU) AS STIPULATED BY THE 1929 PROTOCOL." ADRIAZOLA'S LETTER, IN JUSTIFYING BOLIVIA'S BREAK-OFF OF RELATIONS, CLEARLY PUTS THE ONUS ON CHILE FOR REJECTING OUT OF HAND THE GOP'S SHARED-SOVEREIGNTY PROPOSAL. THERE IS NO SUGGESTION THAT THE PERUVIAN PROPOSAL WAS A DISGUISED NEGATIVE OR THAT IT CONTAINED ELEMENTS THAT QUITE LOGICALLY WERE UNACCEPTABLE TO BOTH CHILE AND BOLIVIA.

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3. DE LA PUENTE'S REPLY TO THE ADRIAZOLA LETTER, ALSO PUBLISHED BY MAJOR DAILIES ON APR 4, SIMPLY EXPRESSED GOP REGRET OVER THE "SITUATION" WHICH LED TO THE BREAK IN RELATIONS, REITERATES PERU'S "MOST AMPLE UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROBLEM OF BOLIVIA'S LANDLOCKED STATUS," AND PLEDGES PERUVIAN COOPERATION IN SEEKING A SOLUTION, WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF EXISTING TREATIES, THAT PROTECTS THE INTERESTS OF ALL THREE PARTIES AND GUARANTEES PERMANENT PEACE, DEVELOPMENT AND INTEGRATION.

4. THE SAME THEMES WERE TOUCHED UPON BY DE LA PUENTE IN AN APR 3 CEREMONY DECORATING DEPARTING ECUADOREAN AMBASSADOR LUIS VALENCIA RODRIGUEZ. HE CITED AS AN EXAMPLE THE PUYANGO-TUMBES REGIONAL BORDER INTEGRATION PROJECT AND REFERRED TO THE COMPLEMENTARY CHARACTER OF THE PERUVIAN AND ECUADOREAN ECONOMIES. HE ALSO MENTIONED THE MILITARY COOPERATION AGREEMENT RECENTLY PROPOSED BY PERU AND BOTH COUNTRIES' FIRM DETERMINATION TO STAND BY THE 200 MILE TERRITORIAL SEA.

5. COMMENT: THE GOP CONTINUES TO REFUTE THE IDEA THAT ITS

NOVEMBER 1976 SHARED SOVEREIGNTY PROPOSAL WAS A DISGUISED
NEGATIVE PATENTLY UNACCEPTABLE TO BOTH CHILE AND BOLIVIA.
THE "PEACE, DEVELOPMENT AND INTEGRATION" TRINITY CONTINUALLY
INVOKED BY PERUVIAN OFFICIALS MAY SOUND HOLLOW TO NEIGHBORING
COUNTRIES, BUT IT HAS BECOME AN ARTICLE OF FAITH HERE.
PERU'S INTERPRETATION OF THE "REAL" MEANING OF THE SHARED
SOVEREIGNTY PROPOSAL NOW SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY
BOLIVIA, AS THE GOB APPEARS TO SEEK FURTHER JUSTIFICATION FOR
BREAKING DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH CHILE.
SHLAUDEMAM

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